



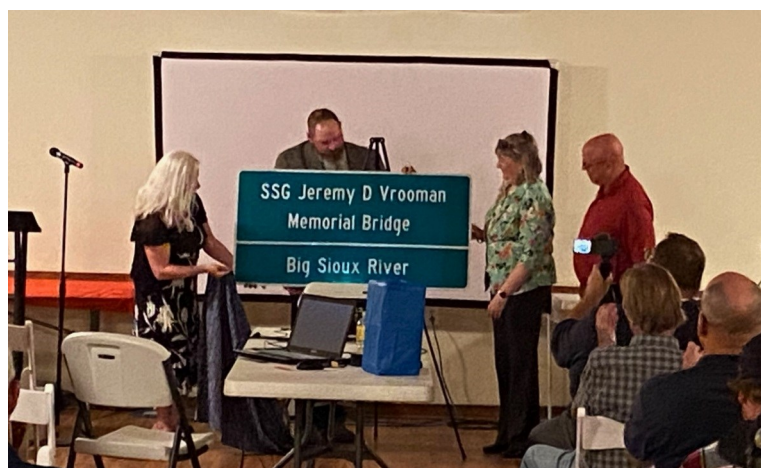
NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



VROOMAN BRIDGE DEDICATED



Veterans, family members, and community leaders gathered Saturday in Sioux Falls to dedicate one of South Dakota's Fallen Hero Bridges.

The Big Sioux River Bridge east of Sioux Falls on HWY 42 will now be the SSG Jeremy Vrooman Memorial Bridge.

Vrooman deployed March 2003 to March 2004, and

June 2008 to July 2008 in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While serving in Iraq July 15, 2008, Vrooman's quick thinking and tactical abilities helped members of Palehorse Troop to survive a lethal explosion. Vrooman entered an abandoned building first to secure the area before the rest of the team. Without hesitation he signaled his team to exit the area and the building exploded. His sacrifice saved the lives of his troops from the blast, but not his own.

"It is our sacred duty to keep their legacies fresh in the memories of future generations; for their service is the cornerstone of our great nation," said Greg Whitlock, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

Naming bridges in honor of our combat veterans who died while serving their country is an initiative of Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Departments of Military, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

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COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD VISITS SD SOLDIERS

The senior enlisted advisor of the Army National Guard visited South Dakota Army National Guard soldiers at Camp Rapid, July 11.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Sampa met with the soldiers in an open forum town-hall meeting to address any concerns that soldiers might have, as well as to reinforce key areas that are critical to soldier well-being through a new initiative.

Sampa is the 12th command sergeant major of the ARNG and provides advice to senior leaders on Army Guard policies and actions affecting enlisted soldiers across the 54 National Guard states and territories.

“My three by five card initiative talks about the corrosives within our formation that we want to eradicate,” said Sampa. “Those corrosives are suicide, sexual assault, and sexual harassment. Those are things that do not belong in the formations of the Army National Guard.”

The three by five card initiative involves soldiers carrying an index card with them at all times in uniform. On the card soldiers write the words “suicide” and “sexual assault.”

“What this does is it engages leaders and soldiers to have a conversation about those things. To eradicate them from our formations by having a conversation one-on-one,” said Sampa. “Additionally, soldiers should write ACFT [Army Combat Fitness Test] on their cards, it’s not just about the fitness test, it’s about what soldiers are doing to prepare themselves by taking care of themselves physically as well as proper dieting.”

Sampa addressed new changes to the Army uniform standards, and addressed soldiers concerns over promotions, maternity care, and pay issues. Sampa was accompanied by Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Couser, the SDARNG’s state command sergeant major.

“I wanted him [Sampa] to talk to us about his three by five card initiative and the three issues that face Guardsmen,” said Couser.





NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

SIoux FALLS, SD JULY 18-23, 2022

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

VCS
Veterans Career Service

WWW.VETERANSOLDENAGEGAMES.VA.GOV

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) **SPORTS4VETS #GoldenAgeGames**

SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL

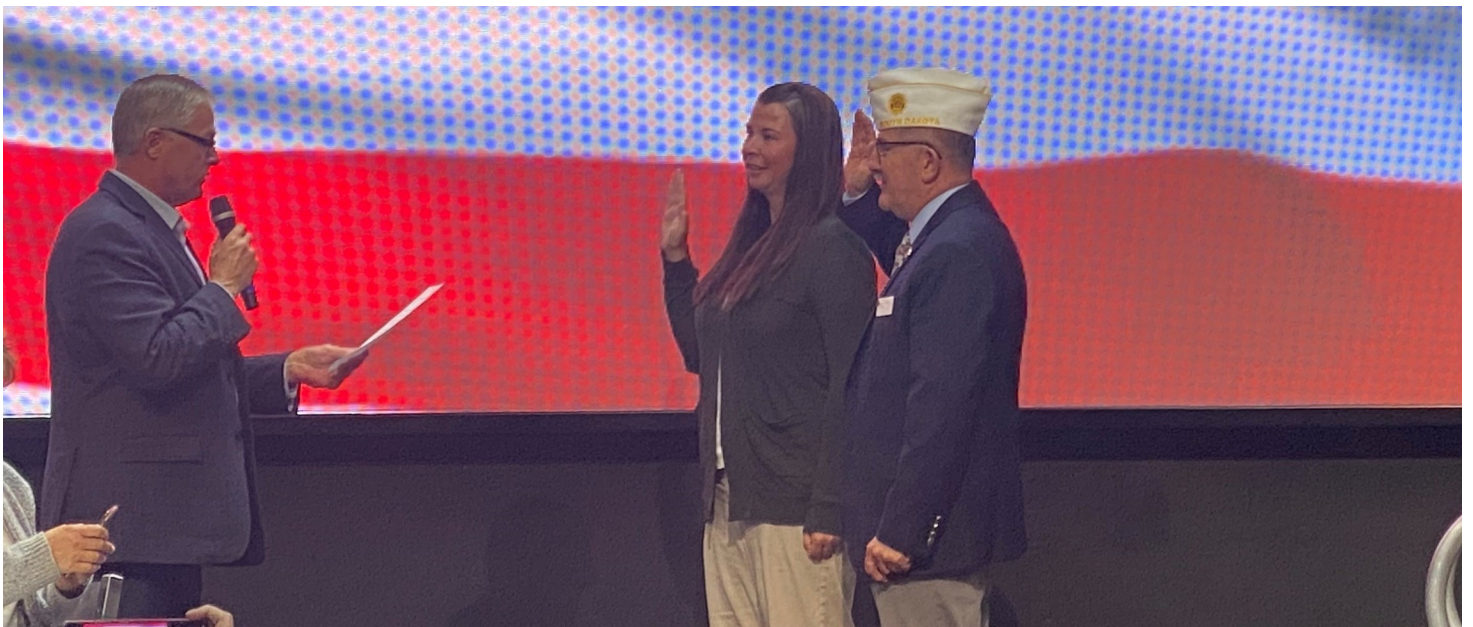
The South Dakota Veterans Council met in Sioux Falls this week to discuss the SD State Fair, awards and recognitions, legislative reception for 2022, dues, and election of officers. The group heard reports from SDDVA, SFVAHCS, Sioux Falls Regional Office, and Congressional delegation staffers. SDDVA's Erin Brown and Heather Bullerman were there to give reports on the Department.



New officers elected were: president—Connie Johnson (representing

Military Order of the Purple Heart), vice president—Kevin Hempel (representing American Legion), and secretary/treasurer Marty Pennock (representing Disabled American Veterans).

Special thank you to Terry Paulsen, Ken Teunissen and Lisa Cummings for their tenure as officers.



YANKTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NAMED 2021 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD RECIPIENT

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III named Yankton School District one of the 15 recipients of the 2021 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, in recognition of the organization's exemplary support for its National Guard and Reserve employees.

"I am proud to salute the outstanding employers who have earned the distinction of being named Freedom Award recipients as we mark the 25th year of this highly coveted recognition," said Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III. "The men and women of the National Guard and Reserve make significant contributions to our communities and our national security through their civilian and military careers. We owe a debt of gratitude to these exemplary employers, who by valuing and supporting their employees' military service, enhance the strength, readiness, and diversity of our National Guard and Reserve forces."

Yankton School District along with 14 other recipients were selected from 3,382 nominations received from Guardsmen and Reservists highlighting how their civilian employers went far beyond what the federal law requires to support them. Celebrating its 25th year, the Freedom Award began in 1996 under the auspices of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to recognize exceptional employer support, with 310 honorees to date.

Yankton School District supports their military employees with programs for National Guard and Reserve service members. The company ensures uninterrupted pay, compensation and benefits during deployments; and goes above and beyond in its compassionate support of service members and their families.

"The Yankton School District (YSD) continually strives to contribute to the well-being and success of the citizen-soldiers they employ as well as those that reside within the community," said Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Zachary Campbell. YSD's devoted encouragement and support allows me to pursue opportunities and experiences that grow me as a leader within the South Dakota Army National Guard."

"We are honored by this nomination acknowledging Yankton School District's commitment to our military personnel," said Dr. Wayne Kindle, Superintendent Yankton School District. "We take great pride in supporting our staff in uniform. We hope this nomination highlights the importance of employers standing with the Guard and Reserve in our community."

James White, Chair of the South Dakota ESGR State Committee will present the award to the Yankton School District in a local ceremony.

For more information about the Freedom Award and this year's Freedom Award recipients, visit www.FreedomAward.mil. To learn more about ESGR, visit www.ESGR.mil.



SIoux FALLS VA SHOW & SHINE

August 18, 2021

5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

- No entry fees
- Open to all Vehicles and Motorcycles
- Dash Plaque / Category Awards / Door Prizes
 - Enter off 26th Street
- Preregister at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VF67FVK>

Pre-registration is open until August 16, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.

Questions please email jamie.maxymuik@va.gov or call 605-336-3230, Ext. 6851

HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE...EDUCATE THEIR LEGACY

THE MOST HONORABLE RAFFLE YOU COULD EVER WIN

ENTER NOW THROUGH SEPTEMBER 12TH AT 4:00 P.M. CT



FOLDS OF HONOR PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF AMERICA'S FALLEN AND DISABLED SERVICE MEMBERS. THIS YEAR, THE SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER IS PARTNERING WITH SCHEELS SPORTING GOODS FOR A HUNTING AND FISHING RAFFLE TO RAISE DOLLARS FOR FAMILIES IN THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA.

WHAT YOU COULD WIN



CUSTOMIZED BENELLI MONTEFELTRO
12-GAUGE SHOTGUN
+ \$100 GIFT CARD | \$1,100 VALUE

OR



FISHING EQUIPMENT PACKAGE
+ \$100 GIFT CARD | \$1,100 VALUE

OR



YETI SOFT-SIDE COOLER
+ \$50 GIFT CARD | \$350 VALUE



ONE TICKET \$10
SIX TICKETS \$50
THIRTEEN TICKETS \$100



WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON SEPTEMBER 12TH AT 4:30 P.M. AT THE SOUTH DAKOTA MILITARY ALLIANCE AT 1600 W RUSSELL ST IN SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA.
WINNERS DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR

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HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE...EDUCATE THEIR LEGACY

THE MOST HEROIC ROUND YOU'LL EVER PLAY



THE FOLDS OF HONOR LEGACY GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES DOLLARS FOR EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS OF FALLEN AND WOUNDED SERVICE MEMBERS' FAMILIES IN THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA.



REGISTER AT
[HTTPS://SOUTHDAKOTA.FOLDSOFHONOR.ORG/EVENTS](https://southdakota.foldsofhonor.org/events)

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

SANFORD
HEALTH



World Suicide Prevention Day Patriot Day Celebration

Veteran Recovery Concert

6:30 p.m. — September 10th, 2021

The Monument's Rushmore Hall A & B

444 Mt. Rushmore RD, Rapid City, SD

Doors Open at 6:00pm!

Enjoy an Acoustic Evening with
Bobby Amaru!

Lead Vocalist of

saliva

&

MISERY
DOWN



FREE Tickets available to Veterans and Military Members July 16th

FREE Tickets available to General Public on August 10th, 2021

Get your ticket at The Monument Box Office or call 1-800-468-6463

For questions related to the Veteran Recovery Concert:

Contact Stardust at (605) 490-9704



World Suicide Prevention Day Patriot Day Celebration

VA Black Hills Health Care System Veteran Stand Down & Resource Fair

1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. September 10th, 2021

The Monument's Rushmore Hall C & D

444 Mt. Rushmore RD, Rapid City, SD

**Lunch—VA Benefits—Employment Services—Clothing
Readjustment Counseling—Housing Referrals
Legal Assistance AND MUCH MORE!!!**

**To better assist you and provide exceptional service,
please bring a copy of your DD214, dependent infor-
mation, and identification to the Stand Down**

**For questions related to the Stand Down:
Contact Christy Kitzelman at (605) 490-0029**



Help for Homeless Veterans
877-4AID-VET
va.gov/homeless | (877) 424-3838

 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

World Suicide Prevention Day Patriot Day Celebration

VA Black Hills presents:

“WE Remember 9/11”

20th Commemoration & Social

5:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. September 10th, 2021

**The Monument’s Rushmore Hall C & D
444 Mt. Rushmore RD, Rapid City, SD**

Join us for a special time of remembrance!

**For questions related to WE Remember:
Contact Duane Cruz at (605) 745-2000, ext. 22175**

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Black Hills Health Care System



 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

World Suicide Prevention Day Patriot Day Celebration

Patriot Day in Box Elder!

**Event kicks off at 2:30 p.m. with a parade on Saturday
September 11th, 2021**

***\$5 food token for Box Elder residents
Military, Veterans, and their families**

***3:00 p.m.: Live Band "Midnight Sun"**

***Bounce Castles**

***Games**

***Food Trucks**

***Prize Drawings**

**8:00 p.m. Freedom Fireworks display!
Salute to Military and Veterans!**

420 Villa Drive, Box Elder, SD 57719



HONOR FLIGHT DINNER

HONOR FLIGHT DINNER AT THE ALLIANCE

CELEBRATING
THE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY OF
THE TOMB OF THE
UNKNOWN SOLDIER

**JUL
24
2021**

6:30 PM
DOORS OPEN
7:00 PM
MEAL AND
PROGRAM BEGIN

FEATURING A.G. JAMBOREE



SEE THE HALF SCALE TOMB REPLICA



\$30

TICKETED ADMISSION IS
REQUIRED AND INCLUDES A
TWO-MEAT DINNER BUFFET,
SILENT AUCTION, AND LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED
BY A.G. JAMBOREE

DINNER, REPLICA, & ENTERTAINMENT AT:
SOUTH DAKOTA MILITARY HERITAGE ALLIANCE
1600 W RUSSELL ST, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57104

PURCHASE TICKETS AT
SOUTHDAKOTAALLIANCE.ORG

SPONSORED BY



**MIDWEST
HONOR FLIGHT**

the **ALLIANCE**
South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance, Inc.



Mary Chilton Chapter NSDAR
Sioux Falls, South Dakota



EXCHANGE
EXCHANGE CLUB OF ROME, GA

A.G. JAMBOREE

If you are still interested in attending the Midwest Honor Flight dinner, please email [in-fo@midwesthonorflight.org](mailto:info@midwesthonorflight.org) with your number of tickets needed and they will add you to the list - payment at the door only if they are reserved by email by Friday, July 23.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jul 24—Tomb of the Unknown Soldier 100th Anniversary Commemoration—Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls
- Jul 24—American Legion State Commander Wolkow's Homecoming—De Smet Event Center (705 Wilder Lane SW)—DeSmet—1:00 pm (CT) (program and meal to follow)
- Jul 31—American Legion State Auxiliary President Stier Homecoming—Phoenix Center (Main Street)—Onida—1:30 pm (CT)
- Aug 14—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—PVT Richard Bertram—Colome American Legion Post (208 Main Street)—Colome—2:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 16-18—SDDVA Annual Benefits School—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre
- Aug 18—VASFHCS Show and Shine—(Enter off 26th Street)—5:30 pm—8:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 21—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—PFC Robert Rand—Parker Community Building (299 N. Main)—Parker—2:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 23—Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser at Barrel House (4701 E. 54th Street)—Sioux Falls
- Aug 23—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—CPT Charles Lane—American Legion Post 183 (330 W. Yankton Street)—Tabor—2:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 30—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—PVT Bruce Ruby—Scherr Howe Event Center (212 Main Street)—Mobridge—10:30 am (CT)
- Sep 2-6—South Dakota State Fair—Huron
- Sep 2—Veterans Day at the SD State Fair
- Sep 2—Salute to Veterans Program at the SD State Fair—Freedom Stage—10:30 am (CT)
- Sep 10—VABHHCS Veterans Stand Down—The Monument's Rushmore (Halls C & D)—444 Mt. Rushmore Road—Rapid City—1:00 pm—5:00 pm (MT)
- Sep 10—VABHHCS We Remember 9/11 20th Commemoration—The Monument's Rushmore (Halls C & D)—444 Mt. Rushmore Road—Rapid City—5:00 pm (MT)
- Sep 10—VABHHCS Veterans Recovery Concert—The Monument's Rushmore (Halls C & D)—444 Mt. Rushmore Road—Rapid City—6:30 pm (MT)
- Sep 11—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—1LT Herbert Lyman and T/SGT James Lyman—Thunder Hawk American Legion Post—Thunder Hawk—10:00 am (MT)
- Sep 11—Patriot Day Celebration—420 Villa Drive—Box Elder—2:30 pm (MT)
- Sep 18—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 7
- Sep 18—Midwest Honor Flight Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—9:15 pm (CT)
Doors Open at 7:30 pm (CT)
- Sep 22-23—DAV and Auxiliary 14th District Fall Conference—DAV Headquarters—1519 W. 51st Street—Sioux Falls
- Sep 30—Folds of Honor Legacy Golf Tournament—Red Rock Golf Course—Rapid City



UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Oct 9— Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 8

Oct 9—Midwest Honor Flight Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—8:45 pm (CT)
Doors Open at 7:00 pm (CT)

Oct 20—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—SD Military Heritage Alliance Building (1600 W. Russell)—
Sioux Falls—9:00 am (CT)

Oct 23—Midwest Honor Flight Hangar Dance at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell
Street)—Sioux Falls

Nov 13—Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair—Sturgis Community Center—12:00—3:00 pm (MT)

Dec 14—Governor's Budget Address

Dec 18—Wreaths Across America—South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—11:00 am (CT)

2022

Jan 11—Governor's State of the State Address

Jun 12—Midwest Honor Flight Annual Honor Ride

Jul 18-23—National Veterans Golden Age Games—Sioux Falls



Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer

South Dakota Department of the Military <https://military.sd.gov/>

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

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